

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle control apparatus comprising:  
a driven device that is driven by power from a drive power source;  
a system that controls rotating and stopping of the drive power source based on a predetermined condition including whether the system is in a state where the system is not allowed to stop the drive power source, wherein the state where the system is not allowed to stop the drive power source includes a state where there is no request for driving the vehicle by utilizing driving force from the drive power source and there is a request for operating the drive power source from a system other than an economy run system; and

a controller that, while it is determined that the system is in a state where the system is not allowed to stop the drive power source, determines whether the driven device should be controlled so as to reduce a load on the drive power source based on whether a driver of the vehicle is intending to stop the vehicle.

2. (Original) A vehicle control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the driven device includes a power transfer device that transfers the power from the drive power source to a wheel of the vehicle.

3. (Original) A vehicle control apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the controller reduces the load on the drive power source by controlling a torque capacity between rotating members of the power transfer device.

4. (Original) A vehicle control apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:  
the rotating members include a first rotating member to which the power is input from the drive power source, and a second rotating member that transfers the power from the first rotating member to the wheel, and

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3/23/04 TOL